

Applicant: Alpasian Demir
Application No.: 10/629,429

Amendments to Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig 2. This sheet, which include Fig 2, replaces the original sheets including Fig. 2. In Fig. 2, element 30, "AGC" has been changed to ---AFC-- and Fig. 2, element 60, AGC_ENABLE/DISABLE" TO --- AFC_ENABLE/DISABLE---.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 22-24 and 27-35 are currently pending in this application. Claims amendments have been made to more clearly define the invention. Claim 34 has been amended into independent form and new dependent claim 35 has been added.

In the specification, paragraph [0022] has been amended to correct AFC. In the drawings, Figure 2A has been amended to substitute AFC for AGC to address the objection raised by the Examiner. The Examiner is thanked for noting this error. Entry of the drawing amendment is respectfully requested. No new matter has been introduced into the application by these amendments.

The Examiner objected to the claims regarding the use of the term "Step 1." That term has been eliminated and the claims are now stated in terms of specific functions. The withdrawal of the objection to the claims is respectfully requested.

Since claim 34 is now rewritten in independent form, without the objectionable "Step 1" term, and was not rejected based on art, it is respectfully submitted that claim 34 is allowable.

Claims 22, 23, 28, 29 and 31-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Lee et al in view of Gunzelemann et al. and, newly cited, Kurihara et al. Newly cited, Kurihara et al is cited for teaching early, punctual and late offset estimates.

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Rejected independent claims 22, 28 and 31, as well as objected claim 27 have all been amended to specify that the early, punctual and late offset estimates are combined to produce an error estimate. (In the product claims a combiner is recited with dependent claims 23 and 32 defining the combiner as a summer.) This is not taught or suggested by Kurihara et al. alone or in combination with the other prior art. Specifically, Kurihara et al provides a comparator 42-2 (Figure 7b) for the early, center and late outputs, those outputs are not combined to produce an error estimate as defined by the independent claims 22, 27, 28 and 31.

Based on the arguments presented above, withdrawal of the obviousness rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that a telephone interview will help to materially advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

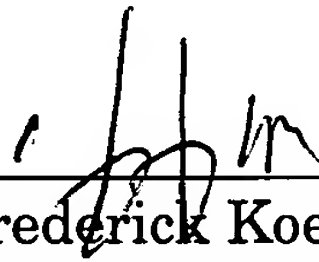
In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including claims 22-24 and 27-35, is in

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condition for allowance. Reconsideration, entry of the drawing amendment and a notice of allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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CFK/djw
Enclosure